

MICROGRAPHIA.

these stalks amounts not to a 500. part of an Inch, yet so strong a texture, as, notwithstanding the exceeding beating of them against the Air, by the strength of the fibres, they firmly hold together. And it argues an admirable contrivance in the contrivance and fabrick of them; for their texture is such, though by any external injury the parts of them are vitiated, so as that the leaves and stalks touch not one another, but several of these rents would impede the Bird's flying; and each part, of themselves they readily re-join and re-contexture, and are easily by the Birds stroking the Feather, or drawing it together, of them settled and woven into their former and natural texture. There are such an infinite company of these small fibres, that the leaves, and most of them have such little crooks, that they readily catch and hold the stalks they touch.

From which strange contexture, it seems rational to suppose, that there is a certain kind of mesh or hole so small, that the Air will pass through it, as I hinted also in the sixth Observation. And it may be, that the Canes, for otherwise it seems probable, that Nature would have covered over some kind of thin film, which should have covered the square meshes or holes, there seeming through the *Microscope* then half of the surface of the Feather which is open, and porous; which conjecture will yet seem more probable from the brushie wings of the *Tinca argentea*, or white Feather, which I shall anon describe. But Nature, that knows the several properties of bodies, knows also best how to order them to her designed ends, and who so would know the nature of the bodies, endeavour to trace Nature in its working, and to see what she observes. And this I suppose will be no inconsiderable part of the *Schematisms* and Structures of Animate bodies, which the diligent enquirer, namely, most sure and excellent instrument, the practical part of *Mechanicks* and to the *Theory* and nature of the bodies and motions.

Observ. XXXVI. Of Peacocks, Ducks, and other birds, of changeable colours.

THE parts of the Feathers of this glorious Bird, as seen in the *Microscope*, no less gaudy then do the whole Feather, as the naked eye 'tis evident that the stem or quill of each feather sends out multitudes of *Lateral* branches, such as A B C D E F G H I K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z of the 23. *Scheme* represents a small part of about $\frac{1}{32}$ part of the whole, and each of the *lateral* branches emit multitudes of little hairs, or hairs on either side of them, such as CD, CD, C threads in the *Microscope* appears a large long body, called the *Hub*.